コンダクター
The Conductor
原作
神永学
Manabu Kaminaga
作画
野奇夜
Nokaya
4
ASUKA COMICS DX

The Conductor
Illustration by Nokiya

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コンダクター

The Conductor

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4

DAY 5, PART 2

AKIHO ISN'T HERE.
BY THE TIME YUUKI HAD ARGUED WITH THE DIRECTOR AND LEFT,
AKIHO WAS NO LONGER AROUND
AND WE COULDN'T FIND HER. NO MATTER WHERE WE LOOKED.
YUUKI DIDN'T COME BACK EITHER.
DAY 5 - KAZUO TAMAKI

WHAT THE DIRECTOR SAID CERTAINLY WAS CRITICAL OF THE ORCHESTRA
YUUKI WAS ACTING STRANGELY TODAY.
BUT YUUKI WOULD USUALLY DEAL WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT MORE SKILFULLY.
THROB
THROB
I'VE GOT TO SEE AKIHO SOON.
BUT SHE ISN'T ANSWERING HER PHONE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
RING

AKI...
IT'S ME, NOJIMA.
...WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'VE GOT SOME NEW INFORMATION ABOUT YUUKI-SAN.
NEW INFORMA-TION?
YES.
WHAT AM I DOING?
DIDN'T THINGS GET LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF NOJIMA'S INFORMATION?
BUT...
WHAT IS IT?

EVERYTHING WOULD BE RESOLVED IF YUUKI JUST DISAPPEARED.
I'LL SIMPLY SAY TO YOU THAT "WHAT YOU FEARED WOULD HAPPEN HAS HAPPENED."
WHAT IS IT?
HURRY UP AND SAY IT!
HAVE A LOOK AT THE ATTACHMENT I'VE EMAILED TO YOU.
MUTTER
WHAT ON EARTH...
WHOOSH
DAMN IT!
JUMP

The matter I just mentioned - Windows Photo Viewer

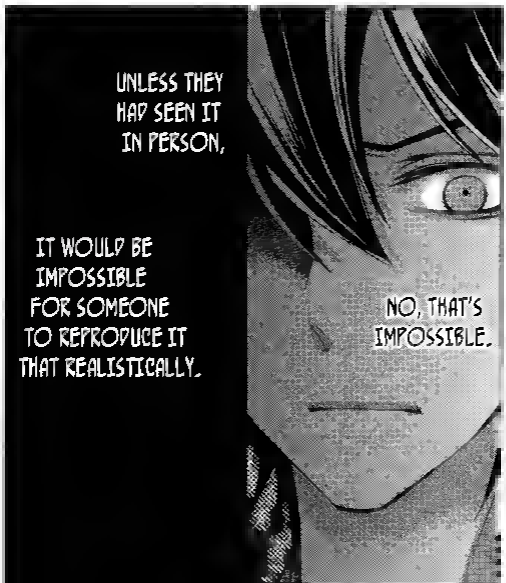
.....
AKIHO'S APARTMENT...
...NO WAY...
NO WAY.
NO WAY.
NO WAY..
NO WAY.

SMASH
NO WAY!
THUD
I'VE
BEEN BETRAYED
BY MY GIRL-FRIEND
AND MY FRIEND TOO.
FRIEND...?

HE'S ALWAYS HAD EVERYTHING.
GREAT TALENT.
A CHARMING GIRLFRIEND.
MONEY.
AND...
NO.
THIS IS WRONG.

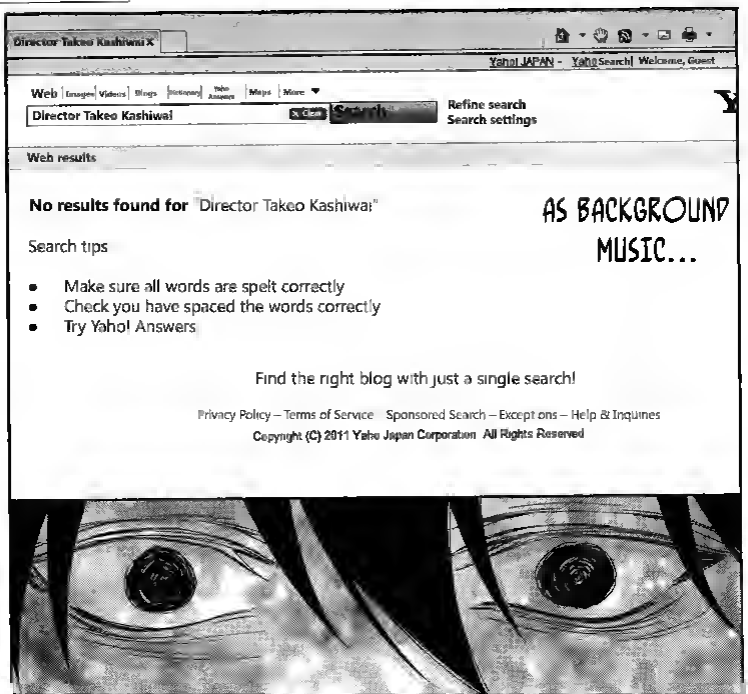
THROB
YES. IT'S WRONG.
THINGS THAT ARE WRONG
MUST BE CORRECTED.
DAY 5 - YASUFUMI YUUKI
TODAY'S PERFORMANCE...

IT WAS A VIVID DOCUMENTARY OF A MURDER SCENE.
THAT WAS NOT ART.


UNLESS THEY HAD SEEN IT IN PERSON,
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO REPRODUCE IT THAT REALISTICALLY.
NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

EVEN THE FINER DETAILS WERE FAITH-FULLY REPRO-DUCED.
YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT IT WAS A SCENE SOMEONE NATURALLY IMAGINED.

THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE KASHIWAI WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT UP
AND NO DIRECTOR WOULD REFER TO AN ORCHESTRA
TAP TAP
JUMP


Director Takeo Kashiwai
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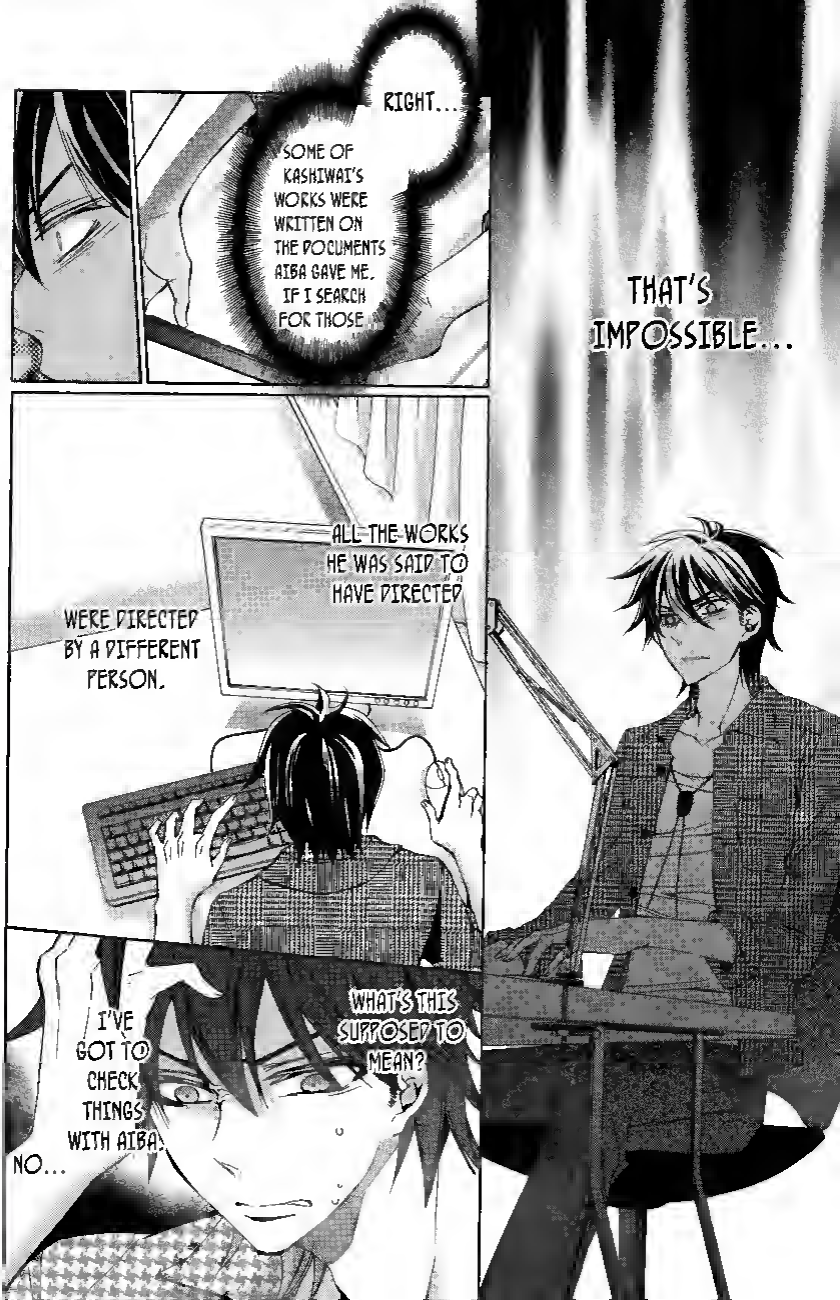
AS BACKGROUND MUSIC...


RIGHT...
SOME OF KASHIWAI'S WORKS WERE WRITTEN ON THE DOCUMENTS AIBA GAVE ME. IF I SEARCH FOR THOSE...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
ALL THE WORKS HE WAS SAID TO HAVE DIRECTED
WERE DIRECTED BY A DIFFERENT PERSON.
WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I'VE GOT TO CHECK THINGS WITH AIBA.
NO...

BEEN TRICKED?!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT AIBA WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.
HAVE I

GRAB

IT'S ME.
..I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME AGAIN
THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT.
THERE'S A MAN I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE.
HAVE YOU MISTAKEN ME EOR A DETECTIVE?
HOW DARE THAT DIRTY RAT SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO COMPENSATE YOU APPROPRI-ATELY.
!
HOW MUCH?
SHALL WE SAY 10,000 YEN?

..ALRIGHT THEN.
I'D LIKE THIS DONE URGENTLY.
THE MAN'S NAME IS TAKEO KASHIWAI.
DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO?
I'LL EMAIL YOU ONE LATER.
AND
LOOK INTO A PRODUCTION COMPANY CALLED STAGE APL TOO.
GOT IT.
AND ANOTHER THING...
DON'T GET ANY CLOSER TO THAT WOMAN. SHE'S FRIGHTENED.
..WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB.

LISTEN UP. SHE'S HAD MORE THAN SHE CAN TAKE.
IF YOU TAKE ANY MORE UNNECESSARY ACTION,
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A MISTAKE.
MUTTER
:!

JOLT
PLEASE!
STOP!
DAY 6 -
NAOMI KUCHIKI
I HAD ANOTHER DREAM.
HUFF
HUFF
WHY...
BZZZ
BZZZ
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT, I STILL HAVE THAT FEELING.
IT WAS MORE CRUEL AND FRIGHTENING.
IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS ONES.!!

I...
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
THAT POLICEMAN AGAIN!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M CALLING ABOUT.
YOU KNOW A WOMAN CALLED AKIHO MAYA, DON'T YOU?
I THOUGHT HE WAS INVESTIGATING THE MURDER IN THE APARTMENT OPPOSITE MINE...
YES...
WHAT ABOUT HER...?
WHY DID HE MENTION AKIHO...?
HELLO...
SORRY FOR CALLING SO EARLY.
THIS IS ARAGAKI FROM KUNITACHI POLICE STATION.
A BODY
WE BELIEVE TO BE HERS WAS DISCOVERED THIS MORNING...

HUH?
I'LL REPEAT MYSELF. THE BODY OF A WOMAN WE BELIEVE TO BE AKIHO MAYA
WAS DISCOVERED IN FRONT OF HER APARTMENT.
WE THINK THAT SHE FELL FROM HER BALCONY...
NO WAY...

WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME AND CONFIRM WHETHER THE BODY IS HERS...
AKIHO...!

ALRIGHT...
I UNDER-STAND...
UMM... HOW DID AKIHO...
ME...?
YES WE'VE CONTACTED HER PARENTS,
BUT THEY LIVE IN TOTTORI, SO IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THEM TO ARRIVE.
WE'RE STILL INVESTIGA TING
WHETHER IT WAS SUICIDE, AN ACCIDENT OR IF SHE WAS PUSHED BY SOMEONE ELSE.
SUICIDE...

AKIHO WAS DEFINITELY ACTING STRANGELY YESTERDAY.
THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED
IF I HAD DONE ALL I COULD TO FOLLOW HER.
UH
UH...
AKIHO...

DAY 6 – TSUYOSHI ISHIKURA
AHH.
I FINALLY GOT IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL, WE'VE GOT TO HAVE SOMEONE IDENTIFY THE BODY, DON'T WE?
IS THERE ANY REASON TO HURRY?
WE SHOULD DO IT JUST IN CASE, SHOULDN'T WE?
JUST IN CASE?
YES. IN A MYSTERY NOVEL I READ RECENTLY,
THE PERSON WHO DIED WAS NOT WHO THEY WERE ASSUMED TO BE.
I REALLY WAS SURPRISED~
……

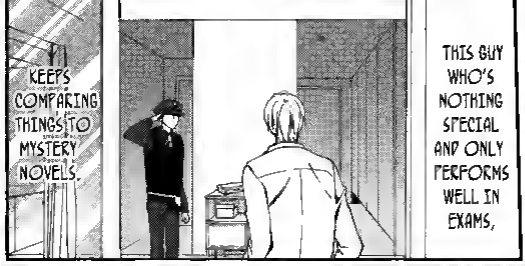
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS.
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR IT TO BE A MERE ACCIDENT.

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PERPETRATOR OF THE OTHER INCIDENT KILLED HER AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE A SUICIDE.

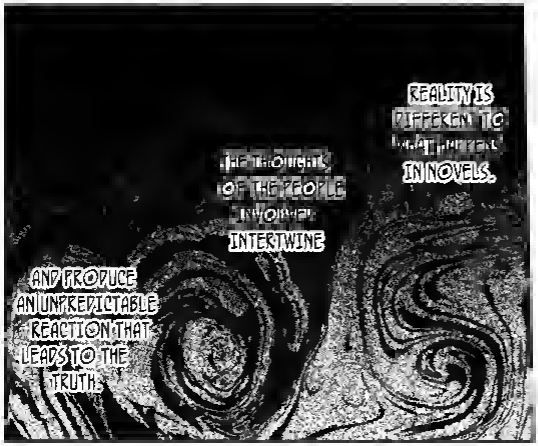
WHAT FOR?
FOR REVENGE!

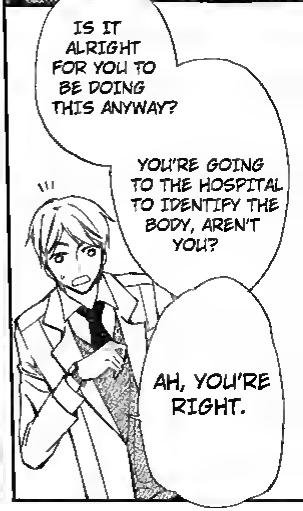
THE WOMAN WHO DIED WAS ALSO ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PHOTO THAT THE SKELETON WAS HOLDING.
WE SAW HER NAME AT THE REAL ESTATE AGENT TOO...

...REVENGE FOR WHOM?
IF I START INVESTIGATING THAT NOW...
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!
AH.
I CAN SMELL IT ON YOU TOO, INSPECTOR.
HUH?
YOU KNOW, THE PERFUME THAT WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR.
I WONDER WHY THAT GOT KNOCKED OVER...


KEEPS COMPARING THINGS TO MYSTERY NOVELS.
THIS GUY WHO'S NOTHING SPECIAL AND ONLY PERFORMS WELL IN EXAMS,

!!!


REALITY IS DIFFERENT TO WHAT HAPPENS IN NOVELS.
THE THOUGHTS OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED INTERTWINE
AND PRODUCE AN UNPREDICTABLE REACTION THAT LEADS TO THE TRUTH.


IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO BE DOING THIS ANYWAY?
YOU'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL TO IDENTIFY THE BODY, AREN'T YOU?
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

NOT EVEN GOD KNOWS HOW THINGS WILL TURN OUT.

IT'S TOO LATE
TO TURN BACK NOW.
DING
DONG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

GO AWAY.
BAM
I DON'T MIND LEAVING,
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU FIRST.
SHUT UP. GET LOST ALREADY.
DON'T YOU KNOW YET?
AKIHO MAYA DIED THIS MORNING.

SHE WAS FOUND LYING IN FRONT OF HER APARTMENT.
SHE'S DEAD...?
TAMAKI-SAN.
THIS IS THE SAME TURN OF EVENTS AS THE INCIDENT IN GERMANY.
GERMANY...

YES.
JUST LIKE IN THAT INCIDENT.
SHE WAS MURDERED TOO.

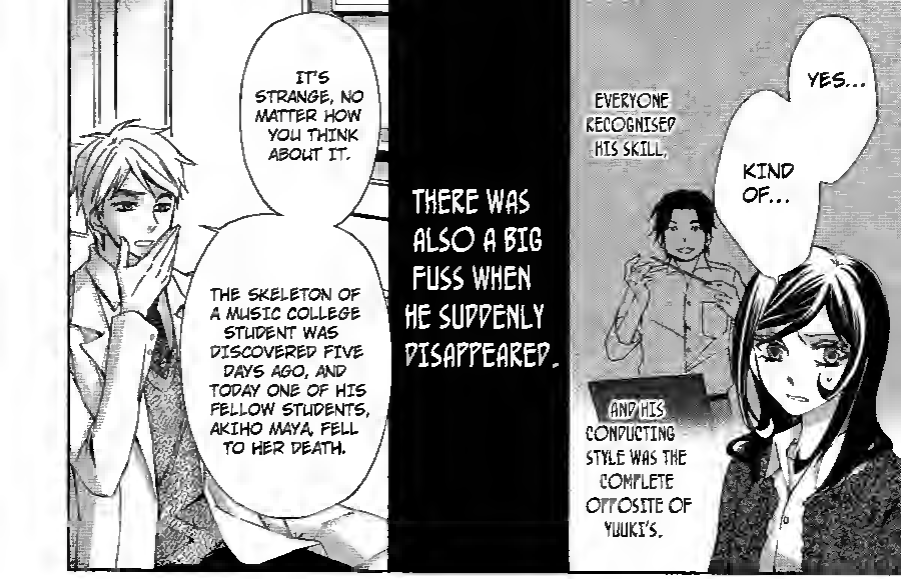
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
WHO DID IT...?
I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I TELL YOU IT WAS DONE TO KEEP SOMETHING A SECRET.
AND WHY...?
IT WAS HIM, HUH?
HE WAS THE ONE WHO MADE IT SEEM THAT WAY.
BUT YOU'RE THE MAIN SUSPECT RIGHT NOW.

THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE GOT TO DO BEFORE THEY ARREST YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I...
WHAT I NEED TO DO...

AKIHO..
WHY...
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN...?
ARE YOU SURE THAT SHE'S AKIHO MAYA?
YES...
I'M SURE OF IT.

UMM...
DO YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME NOW?
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
YOU LOOKED LIKE ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS PHOTO I SAW...

AND YESTERDAY
THE SKELETON FOUND IN THE APARTMENT WAS HOLDING THIS PHOTO.
IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE SKELETON WAS THAT OF A MAN CALLED REIJI AMAMIYA.
...HUH?
DO YOU KNOW HIM?


IT'S STRANGE, NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
THE SKELETON OF A MUSIC COLLEGE STUDENT WAS DISCOVERED FIVE DAYS AGO, AND TODAY ONE OF HIS FELLOW STUDENTS, AKIHO MAYA, FELL TO HER DEATH.
THERE WAS ALSO A BIG FUSS WHEN HE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED.
EVERYONE RECOGNISED HIS SKILL,
AND HIS CONDUCTING STYLE WAS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF YUUKI'S.
YES...
KIND OF...

THIS PHOTO TOO...
IS THIS KIND OF COINCIDENCE POSSIBLE?

THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT THE PERPE-TRATOR
COULD BE KILLING EVERYONE IN THIS PHOTO, ONE BY ONE.
.....
THEN
I MIGHT GET KILLED TOO...

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING RELEVANT?
I DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
CONTACT ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
THEN PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

STAGGER
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW...
HELP ME...
HELP ME...

DAY 5 PART 2 END

The Conductor

by Kaminaga Manabu & Noki Ya

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TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | Odettee (typeaet)

IMAGE

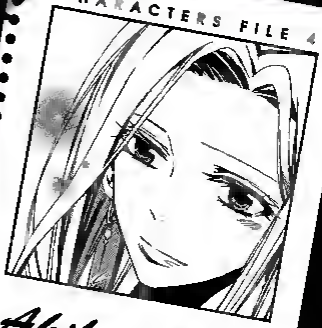
billa_spirit (scen) | billa_spirit (pre-clean) |
Chys, QueenOfHaerte (claen) | caelum-infinitum, Cozen (redraw)

QUALITY

Keeahtihn (proofread) |
Kaito (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall reviaw)

The Conductor
Day 6

CHARACTERS FILE 4



Akiho Maya

Violinist

...DOCTOR...
MY FRIEND... IS DEAD...
SHE WAS THE WOMAN IN THE PHOTO.
DAY 6
NAOMI KUCHIKI

I...
DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
YOU THINK HER DEATH HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH
THE GAPS IN YOUR MEMORY, DON'T YOU?
YES...
I'M SURE IT DOES.
EVERYTHING
THAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR...

IT'S ALRIGHT. DON'T PANIC.
YOU KNEW TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
KNEW WHAT?
THAT ANOTHER VERSION OF MYSELF EXISTED INSIDE ME.
THAT'S WHY THERE ARE THINGS I CAN'T REMEMBER.

LEADS TO THE PHOTO THAT WAS SCRIBBLED OVER IN BLACK PEN.

DON'T SAY SUCH SILLY THINGS.
THEY'RE NOT SILLY!
WHAT HAVE I FORGOTTEN? WHY DID I FORGET IT?
WHY DID AKIHO DIE?!
PLEASE! SOMEONE TELL ME!

MY HEART...
MY HEART IS
LOUDLY
BREAKING.
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH.
GRAB

I SEE. IT WAS ALL ABOUT ME.
BUT ISN'T IT STRANGE?
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING, BUT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AROUND ME...
WHO IS INSIDE ME?
YOU'RE THINKING TOO HARD.

I'M INSIDE YOU AND YOU'RE INSIDE ME.
THAT WAS A WARNING TO MYSELF.
KILL
ME...
THE MAN CALLED TAKUMI, AMAMIYA-KUN AND AKIHO...
I'VE... HAD ENOUGH.
DOCTOR...

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH?
THE TRUTH YOUR HEART MADE YOU FORGET IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOU...

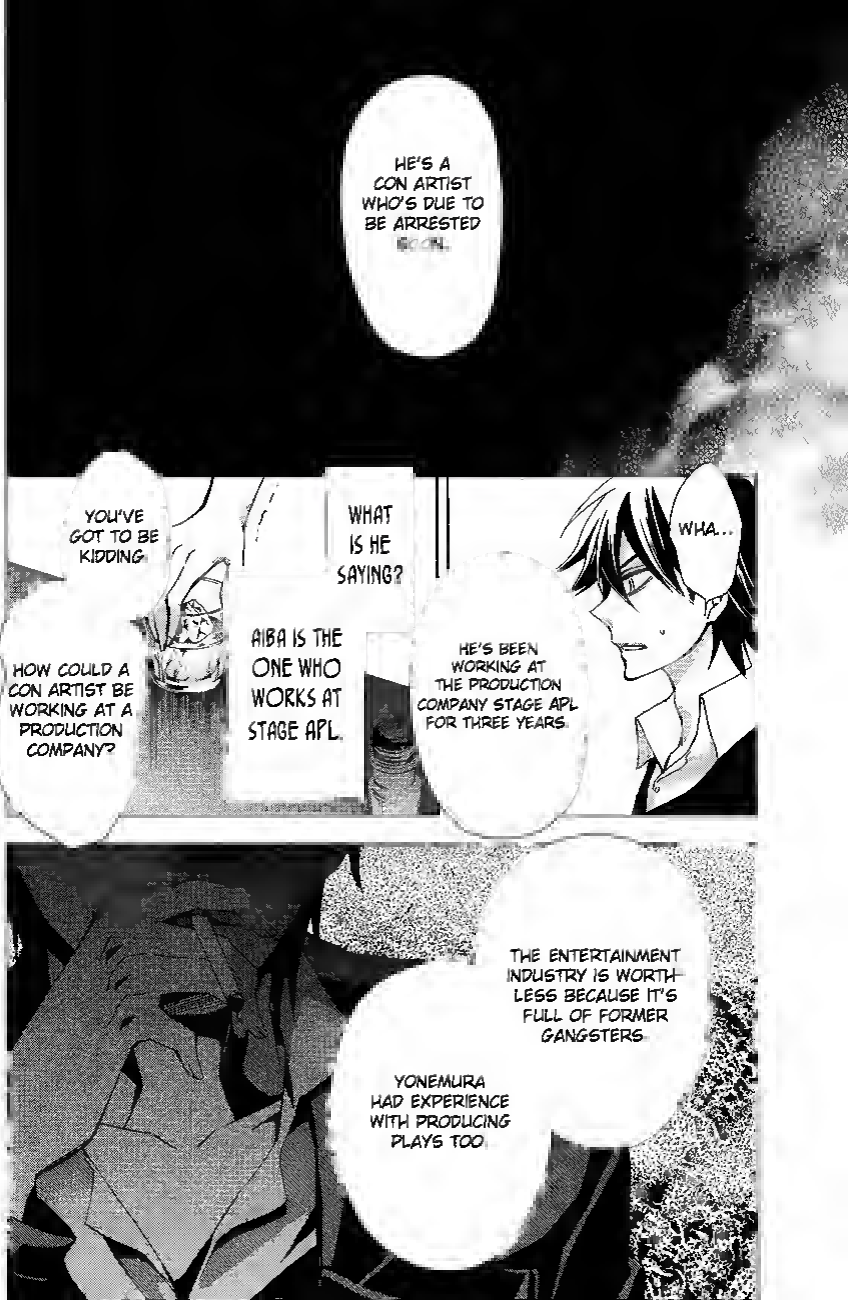
I'M AFRAID...
BUT...
NOT KNOWING ANYTHING IS FRIGHTENING TOO.
I HAVE A DUTY TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH
BECAUSE THESE ARE "MY MEMORIES".
YOU THINK SO TOO,
DON'T YOU, DOCTOR?

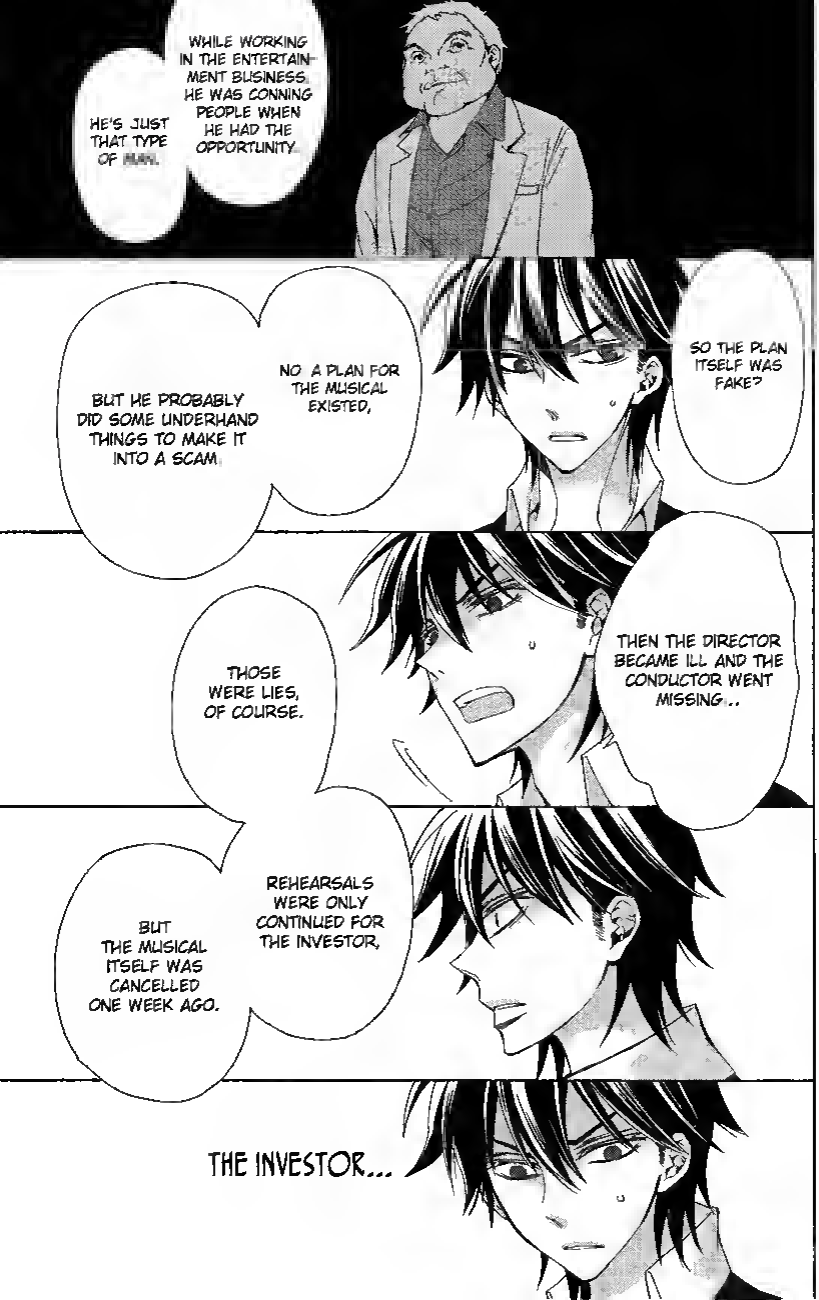
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.

GOODBYE.
NAOMI-SAN.
JUST PLEASE
REMEMBER THAT...
prick
AH...
DOCTOR...
WHAT DID YOU...

BAM
ding dong
DAY 6 –
YASUFUMI YUUKI
HEY.
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING OUT ABOUT KASHIWAI?
YOU'VE ASKED ME A FAVOUR.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SHOW ME FIRST?
...WHAT IS THIS?
THERE ARE TEN OF THEM. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
ARE YOU SCREWING WITH ME? YOU'RE OFF BY ONE FIGURE.

THIS IS A CREDIT CARD. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPEND UP TO 1 MILLION YEN ON IT.
THIS MAN IS A SHAMELESS COCKROACH.
YOU'RE SURE THIS MAN IS KASHIWAI?
...YES.
IT'S HIM.
THE SCENT OF CITRUS COMING FROM THAT PAPER...
I'VE SMELT THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
THIS MAN'S NAME IS JUNICHI YONEMURA.


HE'S A CON ARTIST WHO'S DUE TO BE ARRESTED SOON.
WHA...
HE'S BEEN WORKING AT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY STAGE APL FOR THREE YEARS.
WHAT IS HE SAYING?
AIBA IS THE ONE WHO WORKS AT STAGE APL.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
HOW COULD A CON ARTIST BE WORKING AT A PRODUCTION COMPANY?
THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS WORTHLESS BECAUSE IT'S FULL OF FORMER GANGSTERS.
YONEMURA HAD EXPERIENCE WITH PRODUCING PLAYS TOO.


WHILE WORKING IN THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS, HE WAS CONNING PEOPLE WHEN HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY.
HE'S JUST THAT TYPE OF MAN.
SO THE PLAN ITSELF WAS FAKE?
NO. A PLAN FOR THE MUSICAL EXISTED,
BUT HE PROBABLY DID SOME UNDERHAND THINGS TO MAKE IT INTO A SCAM.
THEN THE DIRECTOR BECAME ILL AND THE CONDUCTOR WENT MISSING...
THOSE WERE LIES, OF COURSE.
REHEARSALS WERE ONLY CONTINUED FOR THE INVESTOR,
BUT THE MUSICAL ITSELF WAS CANCELLED ONE WEEK AGO.
THE INVESTOR...

RIGHT. BECAUSE I SAW THE REHEARSAL WITH MY OWN EYES, AND THE THEATRE WAS BOOKED TOO.
I'M THE INVESTOR, AREN'T I?
I WASN'T SUSPICIOUS.
FLUMP
...30 MILLION YEN.
SO HOW MUCH DID YOU INVEST?

DID YOU BORROW THAT FROM A LOAN SHARK?
A LOAN SHARK?!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
YOU'VE BEEN FOOLED TOO.

NO...
I GOT IT FROM MY PERSONAL ACCOUNT.
THIS IS STRANGE,
I DON'T REMEMBER WRITING ANY DOCUMENTS OR PUTTING MY SEAL UPON THEM.
MY SEAL...?

EVERYTHING IS OVER.

SHE'S DEAD.
...AKIHO?
WHAT ABOUT HER?
RIGHT, ONE MORE THING.
THE WOMAN YOU WERE DATING BEFORE...

SHE JUMPED OFF HER APARTMENT VERANDA.
IT'LL PROBABLY BE RULED AS SUICIDE.

WHAT...
ARE YOU SAYING...?
IF YOU SAY ANYTHING UNNECESSARY,
YOUR LIFE IS GOING TO BE CUT SHORT TOO.
PAT

THIS SCENT...
RIGHT...
IT'S THE SCENT OF AKIHO'S PERFUME.
...DID YOU KILL HER?
I DID IT FOR THE BOTH OF US

GRAB
SHAKE SHAKE
BAM!

SMASH
Gentlemen

DAY 6 – TSUYOSHI ISHIKURA
I CAN'T MOVE!
DAMN IT!
SOME-ONE...
SO YOU'RE AWAKE?

YOU BASTARD! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD BE ASKING.
WHY'D YOU KILL AKIHO?
IT WASN'T ME...
YOU SMELLED OF PERFUME.
IT WAS THE SAME ONE AKIHO WORE.
T-THAT WAS...
THE PERFUME OF THE CABARET GIRL I'M DATING...
DON'T LIE.
...I'M A POLICEMAN. I WENT TO THE SCENE AND THE SMELL GOT ONTO MY CLOTHES...
...WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR EXPLANATION?
!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE EXCUSES, THEN DON'T MESS UP THE ORDER YOU DO THINGS IN.
THAT'S ENOUGH.

AKIHO DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT FROM FIVE YEARS AGO.
IT WASN'T MY FAULT! SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO TELL THE POLICE ABOUT THE INCIDENT FROM FIVE YEARS AGO!
IF SHE DID THAT, YOU'D BE DONE FOR TOO.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING! WE HAD THAT KIND OF AGREEMENT!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS SHE DOESN'T.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY TO DENY IT,
THAT WOMAN DID KNOW ABOUT IT.

THEN I GOT A CALL YESTERDAY...
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT FROM FIVE YEARS AGO.
THE PHOTO THE SKELETON WAS HOLDING.
THE NAME ON THE FORM AT THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY.
AKAGAKI ALSO SAID "THAT WOMAN IS SUSPICIOUS."
I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF HER RIGHT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
SO HELP ME.
FIVE YEARS AGO...?

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING. IF THAT GETS OUT INTO THE OPEN, I'LL BE DONE FOR.

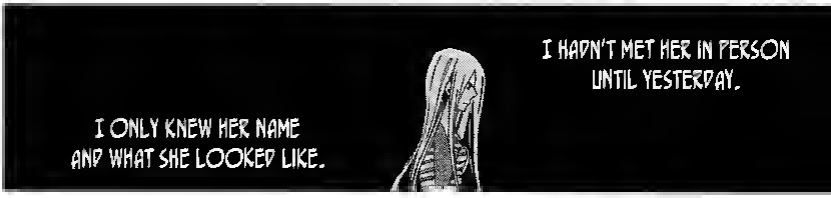
SO I WENT TO THAT WOMAN'S PLACE...

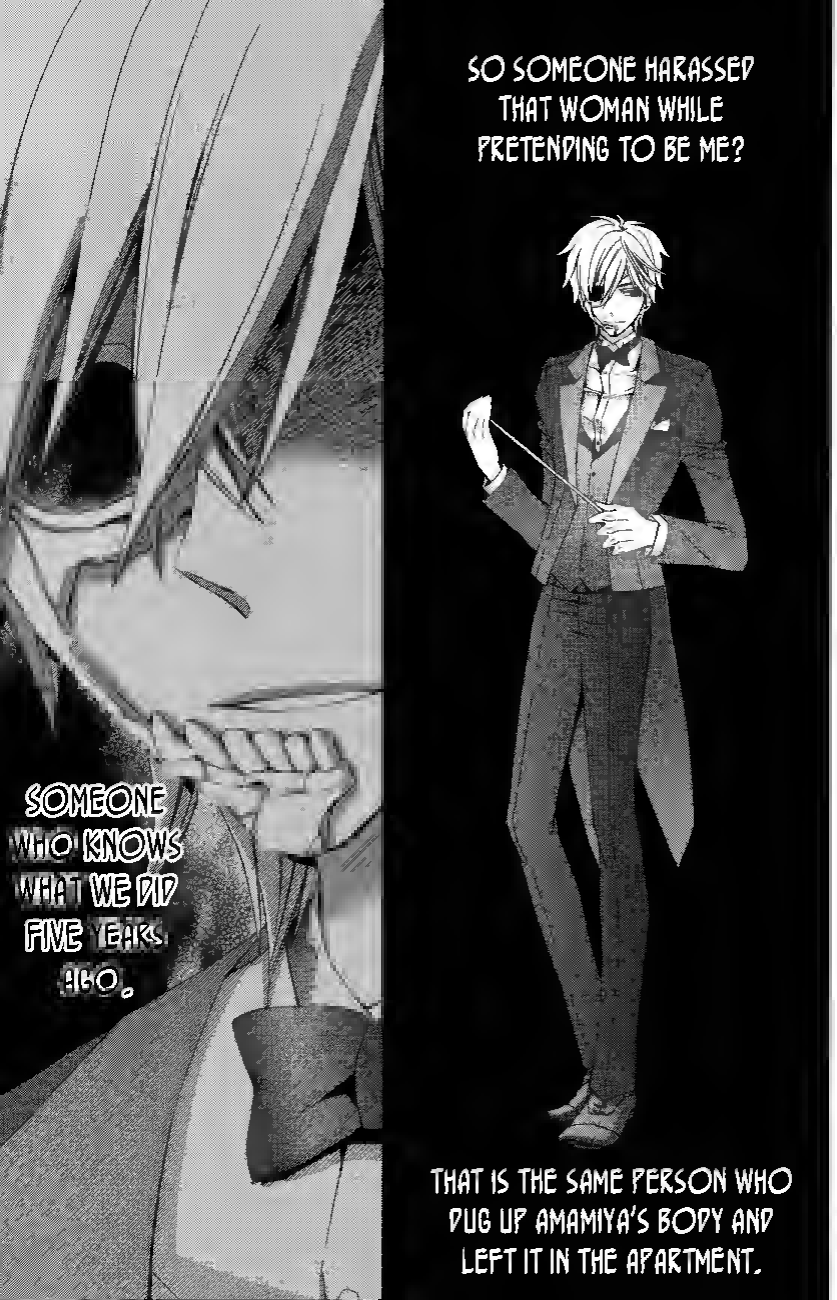
"WHO ARE YOU?"
"STAY AWAY FROM ME!"
"LET GO!"
"I'M GOING TO TELL THE POLICE"
"WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU KNOW?"
"TELL ME!"
"HEY, WAIT!"
"WHAT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO?"

THIS WOMAN CAN'T BE SAVED NOW.

THAT WOMAN TRIED TO TRICK US.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HAD HER CORNERED.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DON'T PLAY DUMB! YOU'VE BEEN HARASSING AKIHO SINCE AMAMIYA'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED!
SHE WAS SCARED BECAUSE A DETECTIVE CALLED ISHIKURA
WAS HARASSING HER.
THAT'S STRANGE...


I HADN'T MET HER IN PERSON UNTIL YESTERDAY.
I ONLY KNEW HER NAME AND WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE.


SO SOMEONE HARASSED THAT WOMAN WHILE PRETENDING TO BE ME?
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT WE DID FIVE YEARS AGO.
THAT IS THE SAME PERSON WHO DUG UP AMAMIYA'S BODY AND LEFT IT IN THE APARTMENT.

WHA...
THUD
HEY!
WAIT A MINUTE!
LISTEN TO ME!
IT WASN'T ME!
SOMEONE ELSE DID THIS TO TRICK US...

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME...?
THUD
DAMN IT...
THUD
THUD
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF REIJI AMAMIYA FIVE YEARS AGO.
I QUICKLY DISCOVERED THAT YUUKI WAS THE KILLER.
I LET YOU OFF WHEN YOU KILLED AMAMIYA.
DON'T FORGET YOUR DEBT TO ME!

WHAT FOR?

FOR MONEY.

I NEEDED MONEY.

ONLY ONE THING GAVE ME STRENGTH...

AKIRA...

DAD!

BUT I

IF I GOT BEHIND ON THE CONSOLATION MONEY AND CHILDCARE PAYMENTS,
MY RIGHT TO SEE AKIRA WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME.
THUD
THAT DEFINITELY CAN'T HAPPEN.
THUD
JUST LIKE AMAMIYA.
EVEN SO, AM I GOING TO DIE HERE?
WITHOUT SEEING AKIRA

I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU.

I SEE.

SO THIS IS A CURSE...?

Day 6 - END

コンダクター

The Conductor

CHARACTERS FILE 5
Tsuyoshi Ishikura
Police Inspector

The Conductor

by Kaminaga Manabu & Noki Ya

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TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | Kaito (typeset)

IMAGE

billa_spirit (acan & pre-clean) | QueenOfHeerts (clean)
caelum-infinitum (redraw)

QUALITY

Keeahtihn (proofread) |
Kaito (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall review)

The Conductor
The Final Day
I'M SORRY...
...MI...
I'M SORRY, NAOMI...
...NAO...MI...
SOME-ONE IS CALLING ME.
WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GISING?

DOCTOR MATSU-ZAKI!
NAOMI-SAN.
GOOD-BYE.
DOC...
TOR...?

A PLACE I'VE SEEN MANY TIMES.
THIS IS... THE HALL AT THE COLLEGE.
IN THAT DREAM.

THERE'S NO ONE HERE...
IF THIS WAS A DREAM... THEN THE MAN HOLDING A SKULL...
KUCHIKI.
YUUKI-KUN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

...WHAT'S THAT...?
THIS PLAYING...
THE TEMPO IS SLOW IN PLACES...
BUT I'M SURE IT ISN'T A MISTAKE...
"THE TEMPO IS DIFFERENT THERE."
"UNACCOMPANIED CELLO SUITE NO. 1 IN G MAJOR"
THE PRODUCER, AIBA, CALLED ME HERE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM TOO.
...HE ASKED YOU TO COME TO THE HALL AT THE COLLEGE?
HE SAID HE HAD SOMETHING TO SHOW ME...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?
I...

1 CLICK
"HEY, LET'S TAKE A PHOTO TOGETHER."
"ALRIGHT."
I'm going to take the picture
IT'S MORE FUN THAT WAY, ISN'T IT?
"I PLAY THE WAY I LIKE WHEN I'M ALONE."
"IS THAT WEIRD?"
"NO."
"I LIKE THAT."

I REMEMBER.

I LOVED HIM SO MUCH.

I LOVED HIM.

I LOVED HIM.

TAKUMI...
THE FIRST PERSON I LOVED.
TAKUMI...
TAKUMI...
WHY DID I FORGET HIM?

IT WAS YOU, KUCHIKI?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TRICKED TAMAKI?
WHAT ARE YOU...
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
I SEE! REVENGE!
THIS WAS YOUR REVENGE!

STOP
INTER-
FERING
WITH MY
LIFE.
I...
REVENGE...?
WHAT DOES
HE MEAN?
GRAB
THIS
EXPRESSION...
I'VE SEEN YUUKI-KUN LOOK LIKE THIS BEFORE.

THAT'S RIGHT.
HIS FACE LOOKED LIKE THAT WHEN HE KILLED TAKUMI.
I WAS LOCKED UP IN THE CONTROL ROOM THAT DAY...

TAKUMI!
STOP! STOP THAT!
OPEN UP!
PLEASE!
SOMEONE HELP!
TAKUMI IS...

NO...
IT CAN'T BE...
NO! NO!
I'M SORRY, NAOMI.
TAKUMI!
TAKUMI!
NO!
NO!

CLACK
THAT DAY...

AND...
I SEALED AWAY ALL MY MEMORIES AND RETURNED TO MY DAILY LIFE.
MY WORLD WAS DESTROYED.
YOU GUYS
KILLED TAKUMI, DIDN'T YOU?
AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED...

I SAW EVERYTHING ON THE MONITOR IN THE CONTROL ROOM...
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AT ALL AND I BURIED IT AT THE BOTTOM OF MY MEMORY.
BUT I'VE JUST REMEM-BERED.

I SEE...
SO YOU SAW THAT...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
BECOMING A CONDUCTOR WASN'T MY DREAM.
IT WAS MY DUTY.
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'VE GOT TO GO EVEN FURTHER.

I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO APPEARS IN THE SPOT-LIGHT!

I'M GOING TO BE KILLED...!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

DOCTOR
MATSUZAKI!

WHY DID YOU TRICK ME?
YOU'RE ..
COUGH COUGH
AIBA...
AIBA, ANSWER...
HOW DARE YOU BE SO SHAME-LESS...

ME...
STAB

A MAN WEARING A BLACK HOOD...?!

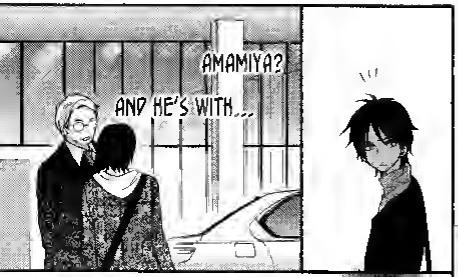
TAMAKI-KUN!
WHY...
WHY...
I'M TAKING REVENGE FOR AKIHO. YOU KILLED HER.
YOU'RE WRONG...
DON'T LIE TO ME!
YOU TOOK AKIHO AWAY FROM ME!

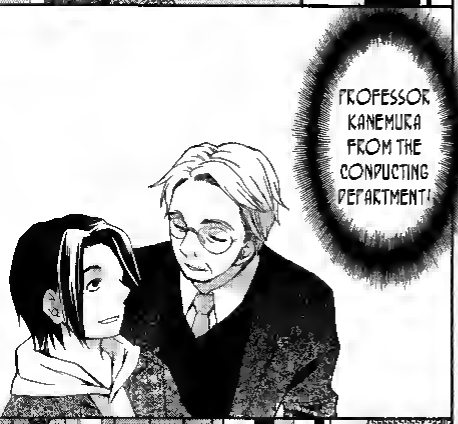
...SO WHY DID I SLEEP WITH HER THEN?
WHY DID I HATE ISHIKURA SO MUCH FOR KILLING AKIHO?
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I ABANDONED HER FOR THE SAKE OF MY FUTURE.

DID I WANT AKIHO BACK?
I HAD THE FEELING THAT WHAT I DID WOULD TURN BACK TIME...
FIVE YEARS AGO.
YOU'RE AMAZING, YUUKI-KUN.
YOU'RE TOP AGAIN THIS YEAR, RIGHT?
WELL?

COME ON, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SHY. EVERYONE KNOWS.
I'M NOT.
REIJI AMAMIYA GOT THE TOP PLACE.
NO, I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.
EVERYONE'S GETTING ALL EXCITED.
YES, BUT I HEARD HE'S AMAZING
DIDN'T AMAMIYA ONLY JUST ENTER THE CONDUCTING DEPARTMENT?!
AMAMIYA DID?!
IT'S LIKE HE INTERPRETS PIECES IN A NEW WAY.
YEAH. AMAMIYA'S CONDUCTING IS FULL OF INDIVIDUALITY.

BEING PRAISED FOR IGNORING THE RULES IS UNREASONABLE.
HOW CAN YOU CALL INDIVIDUALISTIC CONDUCTING, WHICH DESTROYS THE COMPOSER'S WILL, CLASSICAL MUSIC?


AMAMIYA?
AND HE'S WITH...


PROFESSOR KANEMURA FROM THE CONDUCTING DEPARTMENT!

SLAM

I'M THE ONE WHO'S SUITED TO BEING A CONDUCTOR...

VROOM
WHO'LL BE GOING TO THE BERLIN ARTS UNIVERSITY THIS YEAR?
AH, IT'LL PROBABLY BE AMAMIYA-KUN.
WELL, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL.
THAT GAY GUY...!
...SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
THE REASON WHY HE'S IN FIRST PLACE AND I'M IN SECOND.

HE WON'T BE SUSPICIOUS IF AKIHO CALLS HIM...

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM TAKE THE PLACE THAT BELONGS TO ME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?
WHERE'S MAYA-SAN?
AKIHO ISN'T HERE
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE AGREED TO MEET ME ALONE OTHERWISE, WOULD YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GIVE UP ON GOING TO GERMANY.
WHY?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MORE THAN ANYONE
I'M THE ONE WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO GO
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR CONFIDENCE COMES FROM,
I'M THE ONE WITH TALENT!
YOU CHEATED...!

WHA...
YOU'RE DENYING MY MUSIC
SEE YOU I'M LEAVING
WHEN YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN AN UGLY PIG?
THAT'S...
BUT YOUR MUSIC IS NOTHING MORE THAN A POOR IMITATION.

THE SAME AS DENYING MY HUMANITY...!
TCHH

IF AMAMIYA'S BODY IS DISCOVERED, THEN MY BLOOD WILL BE FOUND UNDERNEATH HIS FINGERNAILS.
THIS INJURY...
THUD
THUD
THUD
THE TWISTED WORLD HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL.
NOW THE TICKET TO GERMANY AND THE TOP SPOT AS CONDUCTOR ARE MINE.

I'VE BEEN CHOSEN...
AREN'T YOU IN A BIT OF TROUBLE?
A DETECTIVE CALLED ISHIKURA OR SOMETHING...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I KNOW EVERYTHING
SO HOW ABOUT WE MAKE A DEAL?

I'LL COVER UP EVERYTHING YOU DID.
DEPENDING ON THE MONEY.
THEN HOW ABOUT TEN MILLION?

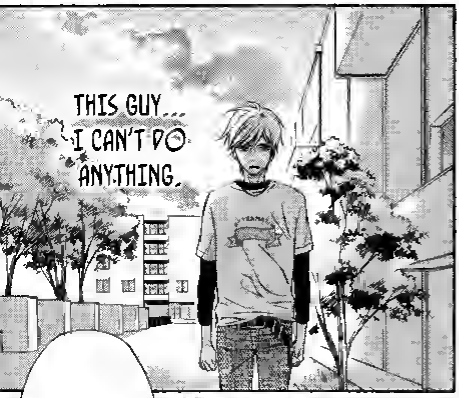
THIS SHOULD HAVE SOLVED EVERYTHING.
WE BOTH RECORDED THE CONVERSATION REGARDING OUR DEAL AND EXCHANGED THE RECORDINGS WITH ONE ANOTHER...
HMM?
YEAH... IT IS
IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO AMAMIYA
TAMAKI
BUT...
YUUKI.
HUH?
I SAW EVERYTHING.
BUT WON'T YOU BE THE ONE IN TROUBLE NOW?
WHY DID YOU CALL AMAMIYA TO COME AND SEE YOU?

...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
BREAK UP WITH AKIHO.
THEN I WON'T EVER TELL ANYONE ABOUT YOU KILLING AMAMIYA.

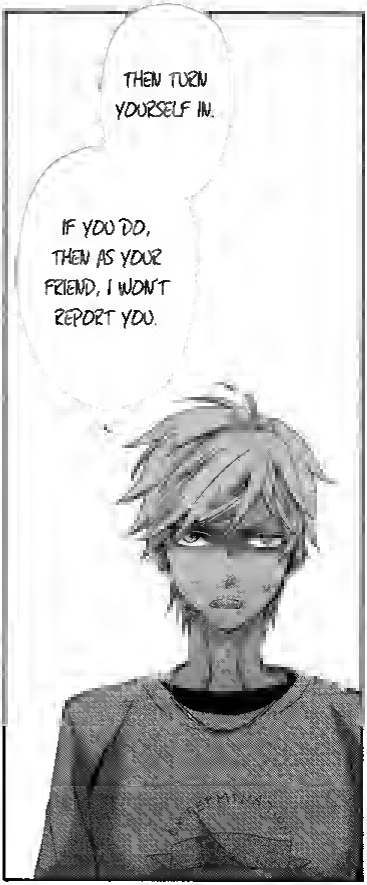
I'D NATURALLY END UP BREAK-ING UP WITH AKIHO.
I'M GOING TO STUDY ABROAD ANYWAY.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS SAYING?!
ALRIGHT...
SO...

NO, THIS IS..
TAKUMI...!
YUUKI...
DID YOU KILL AMAMIYA...?
HEY! CALM DOWN, TAKUMI!
EXTERMINATION
HOW MUCH?
I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT IF YOU KEEP QUIET!


THIS GUY...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

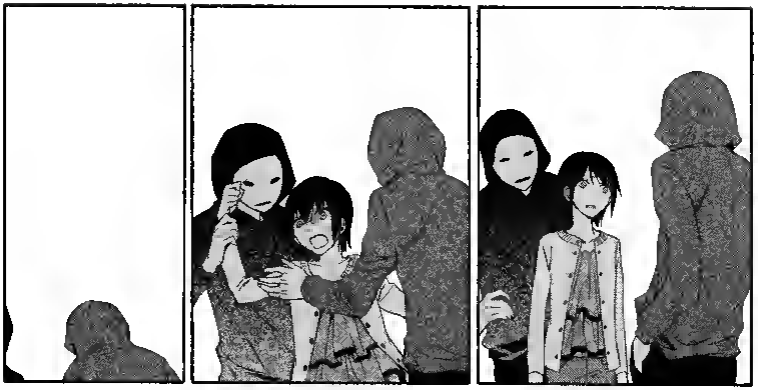
...ALRIGHT.


THEN TURN YOURSELF IN.
IF YOU DO, THEN AS YOUR FRIEND, I WON'T REPORT YOU.

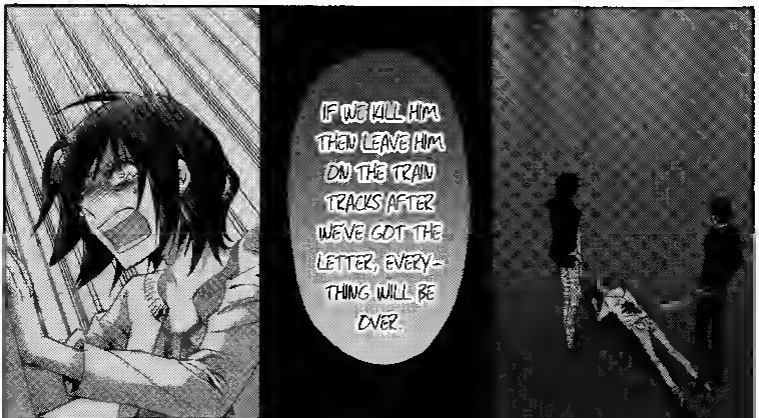
IN RETURN FOR THAT, COULD YOU MEET ME LATER?

YEAH.
YOU'LL COOPERATE TOO, WON'T YOU, TAMAKI?
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
WE'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM.
THEN TAKE THIS LETTER TO THE POLICE
WAIT HERE. IF I'M NOT BACK IN ONE HOUR,
...I'M GOING TO SEE YUUKI.

AREN'T YOU GETTING INVOLVED IN SOMETHING DANGEROUS..?
WHAT'S IN THIS LETTER?
IT'S OKAY
I'M SURE I'LL BE BACK SOON.
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT WOMAN DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING, SO WE JUST HAVE TO GET THAT LETTER
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THIS HAS GOTTEN TROUBLE-SOME
I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA



SHE'LL BE SUSPICIOUS IF ALL WE DO IS STEAL THE LETTER, YOU SEE.


IF WE KILL HIM, THEN LEAVE HIM ON THE TRAIN TRACKS AFTER WE'VE GOT THE LETTER, EVERY-THING WILL BE OVER.

TO PREVENT ANY ONE OF US FROM BETRAYING THE OTHERS,
I TOOK THE TAPE RECORDER USED TO RECORD OUR PLAN
TAMAKI TOOK TAKUMI'S LETTER
AND ISHIKURA TOOK THE KNIFE USED TO STAB TAKUMI.
COUGH

UNTIL YOU APPEARED, THAT IS.
IT'S AS IF YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
WHY ARE YOU SMILING?
WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU...?
LOUGH!

I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO SHOULD END LIKE THIS.
I SHOULD BE GOING FURTHER THAN THIS.
IT'S NO GOOD... MY EYELIDS FEEL HEAVY.

WHAT'S RIGHT FOR ME IS...
GAINING FAME AND FORTUNE.
LEADING AN ORCHESTRA MY WAY.

THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT IS
AMIDST ENVY AND APPLAUSE.

MY...
...YUUKI-KUN...
I'VE AVENGED YOU!
AKIHO!
WHY DID YOU KILL YUUKI-KUN?!

HEY. HELP ME, KUCHIKI.
BUT...
WHY?
YUUKI KILLED AKIHO.
IT'S UNFORGIV-ABLE.
I'M GOING TO THROW HIM ON THE RAIL-ROAD TRACKS.
THE POLICE WILL THINK IT WAS SUICIDE, JUST LIKE BEFORE.
IF I DO THAT, HIS BODY WILL BE RIPPED TO PIECES AND NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL HE WAS STABBED
..THAT WAS HOW YOU KILLED TAKUMI TOO, WASN'T IT?

I SEE...
YOU...
KNEW ABOUT IT?
THROB
THROB
STOP!
DRAG
STOP!
NO!

REACH
...ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME TOO?
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS YOU
WHO INJURED MY LEFT HAND, WASN'T IT?

DID YOU REALLY WANT REVENGE FOR AKIHO?

...WHAT?
IF ALL YOU WANTED WAS REVENGE FOR AKIHO,
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TURN YOURSELF IN TO THE POLICE?!
THE ONLY THING YOU CARE ABOUT IS YOURSELF, RIGHT?
IF YOU REALLY LOVED AKIHO, THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT HER ALONE WHEN SHE WAS SCARED.
YOU JUST HATED THE SIGHT OF YUUKI-KUN!
"YUUKI-KUN MIGHT HAVE KILLED AMAMIYA-KUN."

"...BUT..."
"AND I SAW YUUKI-KUN NEAR THE COLLEGE WHEN I WAS RETURNING HOME IN THE EVENING."
"I TOLD AMAMIYA-KUN TO COME TO THE COLLEGE LATE AT NIGHT BECAUSE YUUKI ASKED ME TO."
"SHOULDN'T YOU... GO TO THE POLICE ABOUT THAT?!"
"AMAMIYA-KUN WENT MISSING THAT DAY."
"IF I DO THAT, YUUKI-KUN WILL..."

SHE'S GOING TO PROTECT YUUKI, EVEN THOUGH SHE KNOWS HE'S THE KILLER?

DOES SHE LOVE HIM THAT MUCH?

I WANT
AKIHO.
TO MAKE HER
CHOOSE ME INSTEAD OF YUUKI...
ALL YOU WANTED WAS TO TAKE THE WOMAN YUUKI-KUN LOVED!
DIE!

ANSWER ME.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME.
THAT WAS WONDERFUL ACTING.
NOJIMA..
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE...?
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
QUIT FOOLING AROUND!

WHO...
ARE YOU...?
FIRST OF ALL,
MY NAME ISN'T NOJIMA.
SECONDLY,
IT WASN'T YUUKI-SAN WHO KILLED AKIHO.
THIRDLY,
YOU...
WHA...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

YUUKI-SAN RETURNED HOME FROM GERMANY BECAUSE HIS FATHER PASSED AWAY.
YOU'RE LYING!
YOU SAID YUUKI CAME HOME BECAUSE HE MURDERED HIS GIRLFRIEND IN GERMANY...
FOURTHLY,
I DID SOMETHING TO AKIHO-SAN'S CELL PHONE.
ALL THE CALLS SHE MADE TO YOU
WENT TO MY PHONE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER THE PHONE?!

WHY...
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU TWO CHOICES.
SO THAT CONFLICT WOULD
DEVELOP BETWEEN YOU AND AKIHO-SAN.
THE FIRST IS TO
LET YOURSELF BE ARRESTED WITHOUT ANY FUSS.
THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON.

NO...
WHY SHOULD I...
SLIP
!?
THEN THE SECOND ONE IS...
TO DIE RIGHT HERE.

IS THIS THE PIT?! WHEN DID IT OPEN...?

I'M FALLING...

INTO THE PIT...

THUMP

DOCTOR MATSU-ZAKI...
WHO...
ARE YOU...?

DID YOU MAKE THIS HAPPEN?
DOCTOR MATSU-ZAKI!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
THEY CHOSE THINGS TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS.

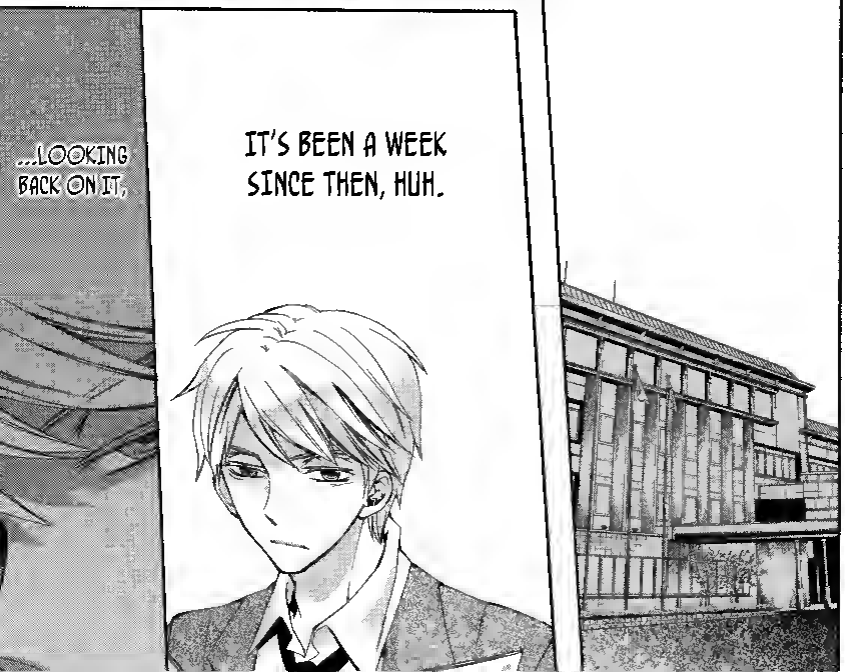
THEY COMMIT-TED CRIMES WHICH MEANT THIS HAD TO HAPPEN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THE PRICE OF ORIGINAL SIN
IS THE DESTINY OF DEATH.
GOD PUNISHES THOSE
WHO COMMIT CRIMES.

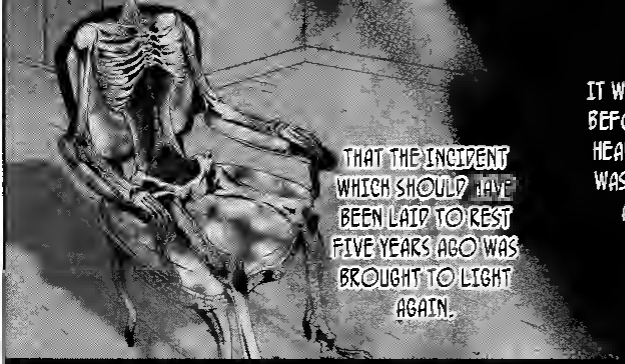
WAS IT YOU
WHO JUDGED THEM?
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ANYONE.
TAP
TAP

WAIT!
TELL ME WHO...
WA...
WAIT...
MY LEGS WON'T MOVE.
YOU ARE...
WAIT...
WHOO
WHOO

DOCTOR MATSUZAKI...

音楽大学殺人事件その真相は


...LOOKING BACK ON IT,
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THEN, HUH.



IT WAS TWO WEEKS BEFORE, WHEN THE HEADLESS CORPSE WAS FOUND IN AN APARTMENT,

THAT THE INCIDENT WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN LAID TO REST FIVE YEARS AGO WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT AGAIN.

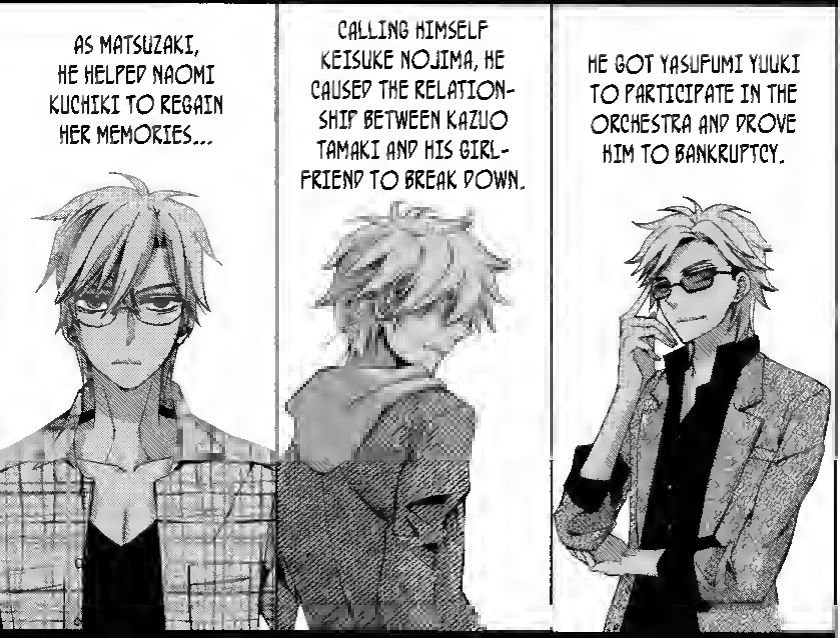
THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT FROM FIVE YEARS AGO

WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER AS MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA FOR A MUSICAL.

IT WAS PROVED THAT THIS WAS NO COINCIDENCE WHEN

JUNICHI YONEMURA WAS ARRESTED AND CONFESSED A FEW DAYS AFTER THE DEATHS OF YUUKI AND TAMAKI.

YONEMURA NAMED A MAN CALLED YOICHIRO AIBA AS THE INDIVIDUAL BEHIND THE FRAUD.


AS MATSUZAKI, HE HELPED NAOMI KUCHIKI TO REGAIN HER MEMORIES...
CALLING HIMSELF KEISUKE NOJIMA, HE CAUSED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KAZUO TAMAKI AND HIS GIRLFRIEND TO BREAK DOWN.
HE GOT YASUFUMI YUUKI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ORCHESTRA AND DROVE HIM TO BANKRUPTCY.

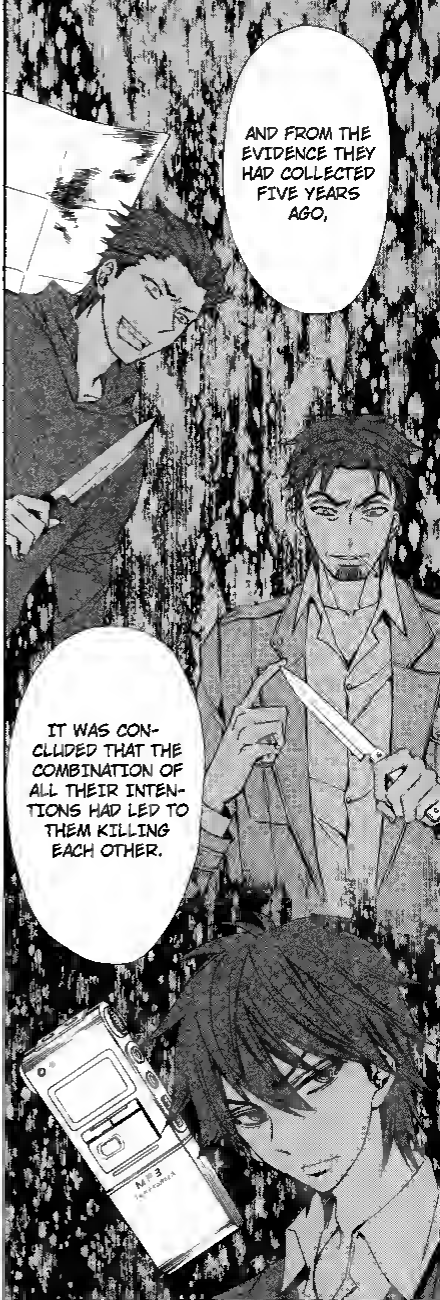
EVERYTHING RESULTED FROM HIS LIES.

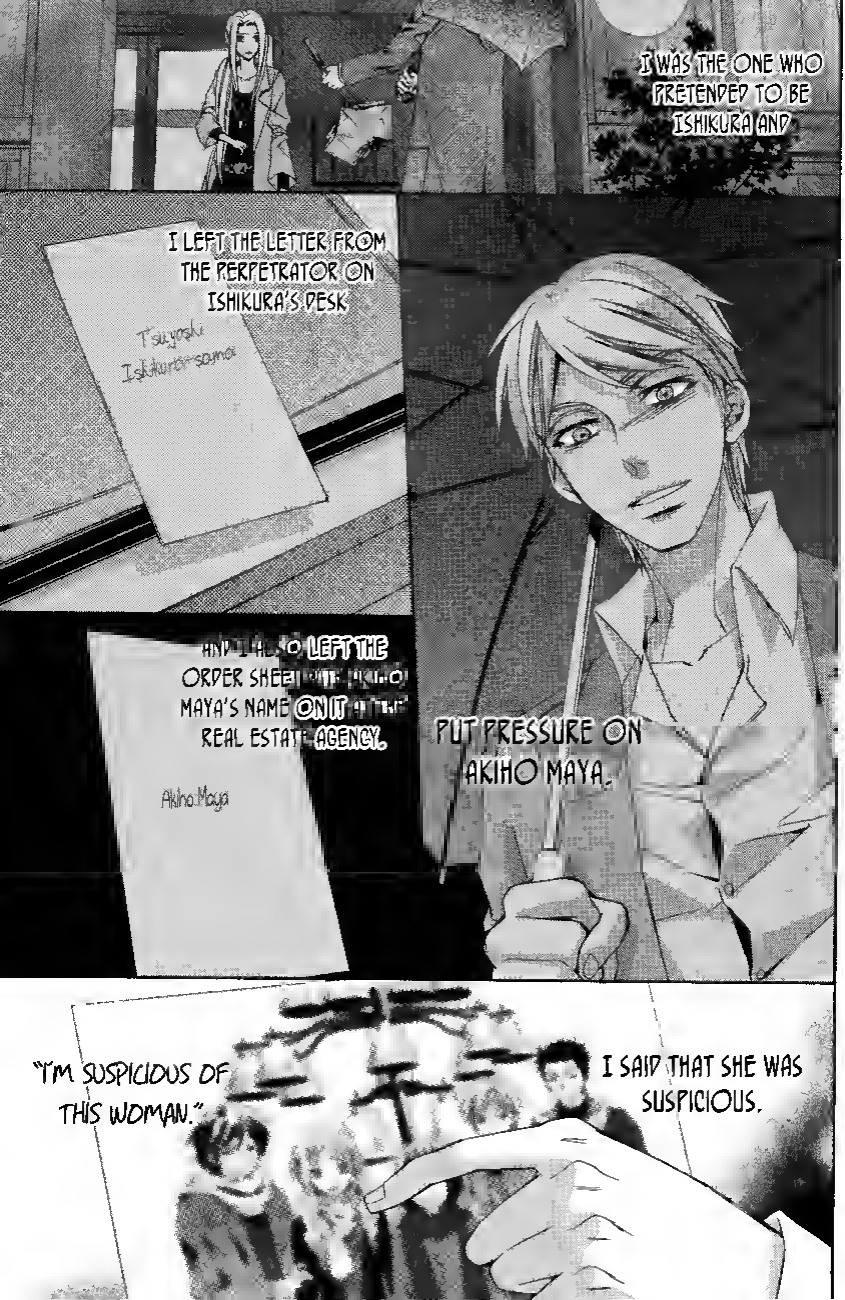
HE PLAYS WITH THE MINDS OF OTHERS
WITHOUT GETTING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.
AND LEADS EVERYTHING TOWARDS DESTRUCTION
HE IS JUST LIKE A "CONDUCTOR".

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE?

THINGS WILL GO JUST AS PLANNED.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?
ISHIKURA WILL TAKE THE BLAME
FOR THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE HEADLESS CORPSE.
THE SCENARIO WILL BE THAT ISHIKURA LEFT THE BODY IN THE APARTMENT
TO PROVE THAT, ISHIKURA'S NAME HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN THE CUSTOMER REGISTER OF THE TRUCK RENTAL COMPANY
AND A RECEIPT FOR THE TRANSFER PAPER USED TO DISGUISE THE TRUCK HAS BEEN LEFT IN HIS WALLET.
IN ORDER TO BLACKMAIL YUUKI BY PUTTING EVEN GREATER PRESSURE ON HIM.

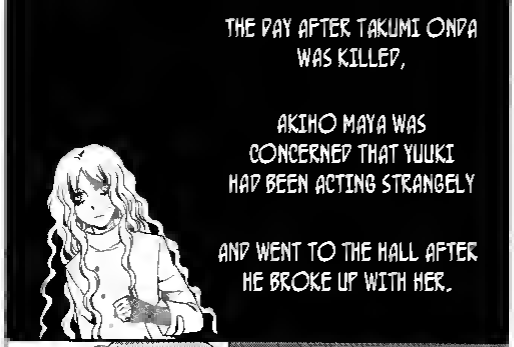
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THE EXISTENCE OF MATSUZAKI, AIBA AND NOJIMA MIGHT CAUSE SOME TROUBLE,
BUT SORTING THAT OUT IS MY JOB.
THAT WASN'T MY ONLY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS CASE.


AND FROM THE EVIDENCE THEY HAD COLLECTED FIVE YEARS AGO,
IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE COMBINATION OF ALL THEIR INTENTIONS HAD LED TO THEM KILLING EACH OTHER.

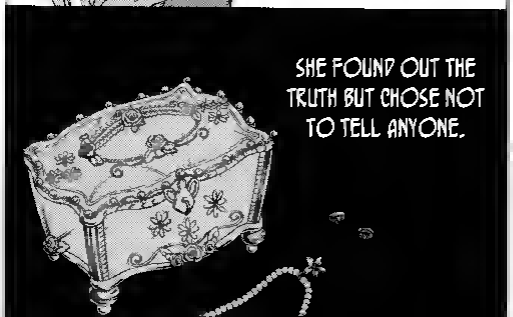

I WAS THE ONE WHO PRETENDED TO BE ISHIKURA AND
I LEFT THE LETTER FROM THE PERPETRATOR ON ISHIKURA'S DESK
Tsuyoshi Ishikura-sama
AND I ALSO LEFT THE ORDER SHEET WITH AKIHO MAYA'S NAME ON IT AT THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY.
Akiho Maya
PUT PRESSURE ON AKIHO MAYA.
"I'M SUSPICIOUS OF THIS WOMAN."
I SAID THAT SHE WAS SUSPICIOUS.

WHAT WE'RE DOING IS BY NO MEANS JUST,
BUT THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN FREEDOM, DESPITE HAVING COMMITTED CRIMES.
THEY ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO HOLD POWER IN SOCIETY, AND THEY USE THAT POWER TO CONTINUE COMMITTING OFFENCES.
AS A RESULT OF THAT...
AND...
I CAN'T OVERLOOK THAT.

TAKE THIS.
NEITHER CAN THIS MAN...
...WHAT IS IT?
TAKUMI ONDA LEFT IT BEHIND.


THE DAY AFTER TAKUMI ONDA WAS KILLED,
AKIHO MAYA WAS CONCERNED THAT YUUKI HAD BEEN ACTING STRANGELY
AND WENT TO THE HALL AFTER HE BROKE UP WITH HER.

"THIS BELONGS TO... TAKUMI-KUN...?"
SHE SAW WHERE TAKUMI ONDA HAD BEEN MURDERED
"NO WAY, YUUKI-KUN...!"
AND FOUND A RING COVERED IN BLOOD.


SHE FOUND OUT THE TRUTH BUT CHOSE NOT TO TELL ANYONE.

...DID YOU GET THIS FROM AKIHO MAYA'S APARTMENT?
WHY'D YOU DO SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS...?
SHE KNEW EVERYTHING, SO SHE KEPT QUIET IN ORDER TO PROTECT HER OWN HAPPINESS.
HEY.
WHAT ABOUT HER?

ROUGHLY ONE MONTH BEFORE THE HEADLESS CORPSE WAS FOUND,
HE APPROACHED HER AND USED HYPNOSIS
TO AWAKEN THE PIECES OF HER MEMORY SHE HAD UNCONSCIOUSLY SEALED AWAY.
IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THIS MAN MET NAOMI KUCHIKI.
IN ADDITION TO THAT, HE USED POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION TO MAKE HER FORGET SHE HAD SEEN HIM.

THE FEAR THAT WAS CLOSING IN ON HER LED HER TO THAT MAN
THE PIECES OF HER MEMORY THAT WERE AWAKENED KEPT ON CAUSING HER TO HAVE NIGHTMARES
AND MADE HER WRITE A MESSAGE ON HER MIRROR.
REMEMBER
AND MADE HER REGAIN HER PAST MEMORIES.

THAT ACTION PUT GREAT PRESSURE ON YASUFUMI YUUKI, KAZUO TAMAKI AND AKIHO MAYA.
SHE WAS AN IMPORTANT "PAWN" IN THIS PLAN.
BUT I WONDER IF THAT'S REALLY ALL SHE WAS.

AND...
HE TOLD HER ABOUT HIS PAST.
HE SHOWED HER HIS TRUE SELF, SOMETHING HE ALWAYS KEEPS HIDDEN.
ALRIGHT.

I'LL GIVE IT TO HER..

AHH,
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING.
NOT AT ALL, I JUST GOT HERE TOO.
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT LIKE THIS...
RUSTLE
BUT IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE HERE?
IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK SINCE WHAT HAPPENED...

SO IT MUST BE EVEN MORE PAINFUL...
IT'S ALRIGHT.
BECAUSE MY MEMORIES
THIS PLACE HAS A LOT OF MEMORIES FOR ME.
HMM?
IT'S FULL OF PRECIOUS MEMORIES
OF SOMEONE I HAD FORGOTTEN, SOMEONE WHO IS NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD.

ARE PROOF THAT THE MAN NAMED TAKUMI EXISTED...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU.

I THINK TAKUMI WAS PLANNING TO GIVE THIS TO YOU THAT DAY.
THERE ARE SOME WORDS ENGRAVED ON THE INSIDE...

DID YOU FIND THIS, DETECTIVE?
NO, I DIDN'T.
IT WAS...
WELL...
"DEAR NAOMI"
"I LOVE YOU"
TAKUMI...!

I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU...
EH?
FOR MY
BUT IT'S ALRIGHT NOW.
FORGOTTEN MEMORIES
AND THIS RING.

AND THAT PERSON.
THE SPIRITS OF TAKUMI
FILLED WITH
THIS PLACE IS

...THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE BEAUTIFUL, AREN'T THEY?

"I LOVE YOU."
THEY REALLY ARE...
"GOODBYE."
VERY BEAUTIFUL ...

I'M SURE
IT'LL GET WARMER FROM NOW ON.
END

The Conductor

by Kaminaga Manabu & Noki Ya

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